Closure of Mini Steel Plant in Maharashtra

4410. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of mini steel plants lying closed in Maharashtra as on date and since when each of them are closed;

(b) what are the reasons for their closure;

(c) whether any revival plan has been formulated by Government regarding these plants; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS): (a) and (b) Presently there are 21 EAF units lying closed in Maharashtra for various reasons such as financial problems, labour problems, slow down in demand and increase in price of inputs, power, transportation etc. Majority of them are closed for ever five years.

(c) and (d) Government had constituted a 'Core Group' to assist those of the closed units which are interested in drawing up revival strategies and preparing bankable reports.

Amount spent on Rourkela Steel Plant

4411. SHRI BHAGABAN MAJHI: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount spent, so far, on the modernisation of Rourkela Steel Plant;

(b) the details of the external grants/credit received for the purpose;

(c) whether the entire amount has been spent; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS):

(a) The amount spent on Rourkela Steel Plant Modernisation Project as on 31.3.1998 is Rs. 3999.98 crores.

(b) to (d) SAIL has not received any foreign grant for Rourkela Steel Plant Modernisation Project. An amount of US $ 23.8922 million was utilized as supplier's credit from M/s. Tyazhpromexport (TPE). However, loans were availed from KFW, Germany, Credit Nationale, Finance, Society Generale, France, Nippon Credit Bank, Singapore, and Sumitomo Bank Japan for various packages of the project.

कोरबा में भारत एलुमिनियम कंपनी के कामगारों के विकास के लिए योजनाएं

4412. **श्री दिलीप सिंह जूदेव:** क्या इस्पात और खान मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) कोरबा स्थित भारत एलुमिनियम कंपनी (बालको) संस्थान में कार्यरत कामगारों के सामाजिक विकास से संबंधित योजनाओं के नाम क्या है;

(ख) तत्संबंधी योजना-वार ब्यौरा क्या है;

(ग) क्या प्रबंधकों द्वारा कामगारों का शोषण किया जा रहा है; यदि हां, तो क्या इस संबंध में कोई सर्वेक्षण किया गया है; और

(घ) उस पर की गई कार्रवाई का ब्यौरा क्या है?

इस्पात और खान मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री रमेश बैस): (क) और (ख) बालको ने अपने कोरबा संयंत्र में कर्मचारियों के सामाजिक विकास के लिए अनेक योजनाएं आरम्भ की है। ये योजनाएं मुख्य रूप से कर्मचारियों को प्रशिक्षण देने, कर्मचारियों के बच्चों को शिक्षित करने, खेल संबंधी गतिविधियों, सांस्कृतिक गतिविधियों आदि के लिए हैं। बालको, कर्मचारियों की मृत्यु हो जाने पर उनके आश्रितों की अनुकंपा के आधार पर नियुक्ति भी करता है। मृतक कर्मचारी के आश्रित को प्रतिपूरक भत्ता दिया जा रहा है। बालको रियायती दर पर मकान भी उपलब्ध करता है। और जिन कर्मचारियों को मकान नहीं दिया गया उन्हें अस्थायी मकान निर्माण के लिए सामग्री उपलब्ध कराता है बालको अपने कर्मचारियों को मकान निर्माण के लिए 5 लाख रु० तक का ऋण भी देता है। कंपनी के कर्मचारियों के लिए समूह बीमा योजना भी है और किसी कर्मचारी की मृत्यु हो जाने पर उसके आश्रित को 37000/- रु० से 77000/- रु० तक की राशि दी जा रही है।

(ग) बालको के प्रबंधन द्वारा कर्मचारियों का शोषण नहीं किया जाता।

(घ) प्रश्न नहीं उठता।

Profit Earned by Steel Plants

4413. SHRI RAHASBIHARI BARIK: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the name of the public sector steel plants which are earning profit at present;

(b) the amount of profit earned by each steel plant during last five years (year-wise); and

(c) the steps taken to check the losses of other steel plants, alongwith details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS): (a) and (b) The Bhilai Steel Plant (BSP) and Bokaro Steel Plant (BSL) of Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) are earning profits. The amount of profits earned by these steel plants during the last five years is as under:—

(Rs. in Crores)

Plant	1997-98 Prov.	1996-97	1995-96	1994-95	1993-94
BSP	701	684	819	639	368
BSL	367	357	806	662	468

(c) SAIL has taken number of steps to improve the performance, which inter-alia include reduction in cost by improving the techno-economic parameters, demand oriented production, improving quality of products, and increasing sales through aggressive and customer oriented marketing, etc.

The Indian Iron & Steel Company Ltd. (IISCO), which a loss making Public Sector Steel Plant, was referred to BIFR in June, 1994 for its revival/modernisation will have to be in accordance with the orders of the BIFR in this regard.

The steps taken by the Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Ltd. (RINL) [Visakhapatnam Steel Plant (VSP)] to improve its performance include introduction of appropriate tehnologies in critical areas to remove production bottlenecks and imporvement in the product-mix, etc.

Profit of SAIL

4414. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the net profit of SAIL has plummeted by 74%, if so, whether the reason for reduction in profits for 1997-98 can be attributed to "over" capital section of modernised units;

(b) whether export turn over of SAIL in the fiscal year 1997-98 was as per target fixed; and

(c) if not, what remedial measures SAIL is taking to increase export in the current financial year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS): (a) The profit (before tax) of Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) for the year 1997-98 was approx. Rs. 149 crores (subject to CAG Audit) against Rs. 588 crores in 1996-97. Profits were lower in 1997-98 because of slow down in demand for steel, greater competition from imports, and enhancement in supplies in domestic market. Further, the profits were adversely affected by increase in input prices primarily of coking coal, petroleum products, power, transportation and higher interest cost which could not be fully neutralised by better techno-economic parameters, cost reduction measures and increase in the prices of steel, etc. Increase in capital related charges, on account of part capitalisation of the expenditure incurred on modernisation of SAIL plants, has also contributed to the decline in profits. However, Capitalisation is as per actual expenditure and in line with normal accounting policy/practice.

(b) The export turnover of SAIL in the fiscal year 1997-98 was above the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) target.

(c) Does not arise in view of (b) above.

Re-settlement of Slums in the City

4415. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the MINISTER OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) what is the estimated expenditure incurred annualy by government on the improvement of slums in the city;

(b) what is the nature of improvements carried out in the slums;